

blood the power of God unto salvation. Peter says the Scriptures are to some the destruction of their souls. See II Pet. 3:16. It depends how this power is applied to save. Faith in the blood of Jesus Christ is as the power house dynamo. Faith puts in motion the power and all the work is the result of that faith. "Without me ye can do nothing." Jno. 15:5. I challenge the world, in God's name, to show that man was ever saved or ever will be saved (so far as we have any promise), but by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. Peter preached that "neither is their salvation in any other: for their is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Our brother quotes Noah as saved thru many different instruments of salvation. Of course he was; but what but faith caused him to use the instruments of salvation that God gave him? All his works were the result of his faith in God. Faith in God caused Noah to build the ark: faith caused him to go in the ark and stay in until God told him to go out. The Scriptures say (Heb. 11:7) by faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and become the heir of righteousness which is by faith." It is beautifully related to us that faith in God was the cause of Abel's sacrifice being accepted of God. Before I knew what saving faith was, I looked upon God as being partial in the acceptance of those two brothers' sacrifices. I even then had a dead faith, but not a living, burning faith in Christ's blood. Faith in Christ's blood has changed my heart and opened my eyes. Abel's sacrifice was accepted, and rightly so, because he loved God and looked to him as his Savior; Cain's sacrifice was rejected because he looked to his sacrifice as sufficient to repay God for any failure on his part; one looked heavenward, the other earthward. One was accepted, the other rejected.

A man may baptize, wash feet, eat the Lord's Supper and give all his goods to feed the poor and even his body to be burned, and do this a hundred times over, if possible, and yet not be saved; but a man cannot have faith in the blood of Jesus Christ and not be saved. Faith produces works. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." Jas. 2:17. A man has no living faith without works. The very devils believe that there is a God, but it is not saving faith. Nearly all the people in America, out of the church and many in the church, who are not Christians, believe that there is a God, but such faith does not save them. A live faith produces works and you can't keep such a man from work. Such faith Paul and Peter had when they would preach in the face of death. Peter

and Paul never had it until their conversion, yet they both had a dead believer's faith before this. Peter, a nominal follower of Christ, and Paul, a strict Pharisee, yet neither saved, because they lacked the true faith of God, and yet they worked as hard and perhaps harder than any of the other disciples or Pharisees. A man may have works without faith, but he cannot have true faith in God without works. Put this down as certainly true. Notice those in your own neighborhood and see if this statement is not true.

By faith Enoch was translated, and others have worked harder, no doubt, that he did to go to heaven and keep from dying, but they were not translated. Notice how the people who tried to build to heaven worked, yet it only proved to their own destruction. By faith Abraham offered up Isaac, and yet we all know that Isaac was not sacrificed on the altar, but there have been children actually offered up in sacrifice and made to pass thru the fire; yea, how often do we read of men and women who actually murder their children, they say, in obedience to a call of God, yet they are murderers instead of saints. By faith Moses passed thru the Red Sea, but from the lack of faith in God the Egyptians were drowned. And yet the Egyptians worked harder to get thru that sea than Israel did, for we read that the wheels of their chariots come off in the Red Sea. If they had had true faith in God they could have gone on with Israel and not one of them drowned.

By faith they kept the Passover and yet the Jews keep it today with as much works as Moses did, yet it is not acceptable to God. Read, if you please, what faith has done for lost man,—of Gideon, Samson, David, Samuel, the prophets, etc. It has subdued kingdoms, stopped the violence of fire, stopped the mouths of lions, escaped the edge of the sword, women received their dead to life again.

Our brother asks, "Born of water (baptism). Any token in that? Any sign here?" Certainly. But to those who baptize to take away sin, there is no token, but to those who look to the blood of Jesus to take away their sins, baptism is a "symbol and nothing more." Baptism in water only symbolizes the new birth. It cannot possibly produce it, for God only can create. I might take up all the other ordinances here, as our brother has not been able to see any symbol in them, but if he fails to see their significance as I have already shown, I fear I shall not be able to make him see it.

The ordinances of God's house have no greater part in the plan of salvation than giving goods to feed the poor, loving our enemies and doing good for evil, and unless we have these evidences, as well as others, we deceive ourselves, for

by their fruits we are known and not by our words and appearances altogether.

Our brother says, "faith changes the heart." This is all right, brother. But faith in what? Faith in the ordinance as our Savior? Or faith in Jesus as such? Or faith in partially the blood of Jesus and partially the ordinances of God's house? If in the ordinances alone, then Christ's blood avails nothing. If in Christ's blood then the ordinances are "symbols and nothing more." And if partially in the ordinances and partially in Christ's blood, then Christ did not make a complete sacrifice for our sins but only partially so.

I trust I have now clearly set forth to our bother that the blood of Jesus is the only hope of salvation, and the ordinances are "symbols and nothing more."

What I have written is for the glory of God and the salvation of man, endeavoring in a feeble way to make those who do not understand and know Christ to find him and know him.

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FACTORS OR BENEFACTORS—WHICH?

GEO. S. GRIM

Some people are anxious to become factors in the world, but care very little to become benefactors. They desire to have a prominent position where they can be seen by everybody. They are ambitious to shine in the social circle; to attract attention from an admiring multitude; to be deemed persons of importance in the community where they live. They wish to be influential. But what is it all for? Only to be a factor, without being a benefactor. What good does such a person do in society? The less factor and the more of a benefactor one is the better. A person may shine with a pernicious light in society and only be leading astray those who would wish to follow a better and holier light through life.

Again, a person may hoard up riches in this world with no thought of becoming a benefactor with it unto his fellow-man or the church. Such accumulate with only a selfish purpose. No plans of usefulness with it are ever entertained in the heart. If you approach them and ask them to help build up the cause of Christ they never have anything to spare. Such a one is simply a factor. Alas, we find those people who are no more than factors, going down towards the grave as fast as the wheel of time can carry them on, and are striving with all their main and might, only to become factors in this world. Verily they shall have their reward.

Whether the sun shines or the rain falls, show a glad face to your neighbor. If you must fall in life's battle, you can at least fall with a smile on your face.